

## Records of the elongate oyster blenny in Singapore

**Subjects:** Elongate oyster blenny, *Omobranchus elongatus* (Teleostei: Blennidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, at Pulau Pawai, Sentosa, Labrador Beach and Pulau Subar Laut; 1933, 1991, 1994, 1998, 1999 and 2017.

**Habitats:** Marine. Intertidal reef flats.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observations:** Material of *Omobranchus elongatus* from Singapore deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore (ZRC), consist of the following:

Pulau Pawai (Alligator Island) - 1 example, 33.7 mm SL, April 1933;

Labrador Beach - ZRC 36585, 3 examples, largest 30.8 mm SL, 12 January 1994; ZRC 43386, 1 example, 49.3 mm SL, 5 November 1998 (Fig. 1); ZRC 47538, 2 examples, larger 28.5 mm SL, 23 December 1999;

Sentosa Island, reef flat at south-east - ZRC 17400, 1 example, 37.2 mm SL, 26 February 1991 (Fig. 2).

SL refers to standard length (measured from tip of snout to base of caudal fin).

At Pulau Subar Laut (Big Sister Island) in the Sisters Islands Marine Park, on 12 February 2017, at 1716 hrs, Marcus F. C. Ng observed an example of about 3 or 4 cm total length (Fig. 3) 'popping' out of a hole in a small (shin-high) rocky/rubble outcrop on the high intertidal shore of a lagoon, exposed at low tide. Landing on the moist surface of the rock, the blenny remained exposed to the air for about 30 to 40 seconds, before leaping into an adjacent small pool of water and promptly disappearing under a rock.

**Remarks:** This may be the first published records of *Omobranchus elongatus* in Singapore. *Omobranchus ferox*, *Omobranchus punctatus* and *Omobranchus zebra* are also known from Singapore waters (see Fowler, 1938: 223 as *Petrosirtes zebra*; Ng et al., 2015: 324). *Omobranchus elongatus* differs from these three congeners in having a series of narrow dark brown bars separated by white lines on the sides of the body (see Springer & Gomon, 1975: 17-20). There is also a distinct blackish blotch on the soft dorsal fin. This species occurs on rocky reefs and estuaries throughout the Indo-west Pacific from East Africa throughout the East Indies to the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 784).

### References:

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- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.
- Ng H. H., H. H. Tan, K. K. P. Lim, W. B. Ludt & P. Chakrabarty, 2015. Fishes of the eastern Johor Strait. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Supplement No. 31: 303-337.
- Springer, V. G. & M. F. Gomon, 1975. Revision of the blennioid fish genus *Omobranchus* with descriptions of three new species and notes on other species of the tribe Omobranchini. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*. 177: i-iii + 1-135.

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Fig. 2. Lateral view of preserved example of *Omobranchus elongatus*, 49.3 mm SL, from Labrador Beach (ZRC 43386). Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim



Fig. 3. Lateral view of preserved example of *Omobranchus elongatus*, 37.2 mm SL from Sentosa (ZRC 17400). Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim



Fig. 3. Live *Omobranchus elongatus* of about 4 cm total length, exposed on a rock at Pulau Subar Laut, 12 February 2017 at 1716 hrs. Photograph by Marcus F. C. Ng